



B. I. NEWS

Volume 1, Number 1

Boston, Massachusetts

December 1956

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY LAW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1957

Beginning January 1, 1957, the Social Security tax will be increased from 2% to 2¼% for both the employee and the employer. This tax will be paid on the first \$4,200.00 of annual earnings.

This tax means that more money will be deducted from your pay during 1957. To see what the new tax means to you in dollars and cents, check the following chart:

Annual Earnings	In 1956 You Paid for Social Security	In 1957 You Will Pay For Social Security
\$2,000	\$40.00	\$45.00
2,200	44.00	49.50
2,400	48.00	54.00
2,600	52.00	58.50
2,800	56.00	63.00
3,000	60.00	67.50
3,200	64.00	72.00
3,400	68.00	76.50
3,600	72.00	81.00
3,800	76.00	85.50
4,000	80.00	90.00
4,200 Max.	84.00	94.50

New Benefits:

WOMEN WORKERS can now retire at age 62 and start collecting their Social Security pension immediately. However, retirement before 65 means lower monthly benefits for life. If a woman worker quits at 62, she draws only 80% of the benefits she would be entitled to at 65. Each month after 62 that she delays retirement increases her benefits.

NONWORKING WIVES can retire at age 62 and start collecting benefits on the basis of their husband's coverage, assuming he is 65. However, if she starts collecting at 62, she will get only 75% of the amount she would be entitled to at 65.

WIDOWS—The privilege of an early pension has also been extended to widows. A widow may retire at age 62 and receive the same benefit she would be entitled to at age 65 which is three-quarters of the amount the husband alone would have been entitled to, had he lived.

DISABLED WORKERS — Any person covered by Social Security who becomes disabled can start drawing full benefits when he becomes 50 years of age, instead of waiting until he is 65. These benefits continue until his death. His wife would be entitled to benefits when he reaches 65 and she reaches 62. To collect a pension at age 50, the disability suffered will have to be a physical or mental impairment which prevents the individual from holding a job. The disability need not have been incurred at work, but it must be one that is expected to result in death or to continue for a long and indefinite period. A person can be entitled to a disability pension regardless of how much unemployment income he has from other sources.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming the advent of the B. I. NEWS. With its Editorial Committee, I share the hope that it will help to keep you informed of important events and developments in the Hospital, as well as to help you become better acquainted with your fellow-employees.

An employee newspaper offers an excellent medium of communication for the personnel. I hope that you will read it, enjoy it, and participate in its publication. Only in this way can the B. I. NEWS serve its intended purpose—a newspaper for the Beth Israel Hospital employees.

CECIL G. SHEPS

THANK YOU, LADIES!

The long-needed bus shelter on Brookline Avenue in front of the O.P.D. Building is being built for the employees, out-patients, and visitors of the Hospital as a gift of the Women's Auxiliary.

When the wind is howling, when the snow is blowing, or when the rain is falling, we'll think of you, ladies. Thank you for thinking of us!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual Open House for all employees will be held this year on Thursday afternoon, December 20th, from 2:30 to 4:00 in the Dining Room of the hospital. In addition to the opportunity of a get-together for the Beth Israel Family, there will be musical entertainment and refreshments.

Employees will have an opportunity to congratulate two employees, Mrs. Mabel Josselyn and Mrs. Mabel Tokarczyk, on 20 years of faithful service to the Hospital. They will receive their 20-year pins at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Beth Israel Hospital Association being held on December 16th at the Hotel Somerset.

DISABLED CHILDREN—Disabled children of a deceased or retired worker may also receive aid under the new law, provided the disability occurred prior to age 18. These benefits will continue as long as the child remains disabled. Previously, they would have stopped after the child reached 18.

It is advisable for anyone who might be affected by these changes to contact their nearest Social Security office for further details.

JOE CLANCY
Accounting

THE BIRTH OF THE NEWS

Vital Statistics:

Name B. I. NEWS
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The Editorial Committee is happy to announce the arrival of the B. I. News, a newspaper for the employees of the Beth Israel Hospital. With the interest and participation of its readers, the NEWS should help you to become better acquainted not only with the people with whom you work, but with the way in which our patients are cared for, by a better understanding of the various hospital departments and their functions.

In addition, the columns of this paper will be used to inform employees of new developments in the hospital concerning personnel practices and activities — opportunities, vacation and holiday schedules, parties, etc.—patient care, interesting teaching programs and developments in our research programs. Since the NEWS is for employees and by employees, its opinions will not necessarily reflect the official policies of the hospital.

A newspaper for employees must have the co-operation and participation of its readers. The Department representatives listed below will be happy to transmit your suggestions and comments for consideration. The Public Relations Department will also welcome your written communications concerning the B. I. NEWS at any time.

Department Representatives

Helen Berman Dietary
Barbara Boyajian Clinical Pathology
Rose Brody Accounting
Evelyn Deutschman Radiology
Martha Domigian Out Patient
James Feeney, M.D. Medicine
Dorothy Huntington, Ph.D. Psychiatry
Sally Jones, R.N. Nursing
Wendell Klossner, M.D. House Staff
Marian Leventhal Dental Clinic
Terri Meaney Photography
O. Annette Mokino Switchboard
Betty Moskowitz Medical Records
Mary O'Neil Admitting
Doris Parkham Information
Sam Racoff Purchasing
Mary Richards Housekeeping
Beatrice Stone Social Service
Helen Swartz Maintenance
Ann Welch Laundry
Eunice Wilson Pathology
Ruth Winer Physical Medicine

Meet The Family



WACLAW DUDZINSKI

Waclaw Dudzinski is a difficult name for Americans to pronounce—so we call him Eddie. Eddie is our printer, the man to whom we take our stencils for duplicating, the man who works in the basement of the service building, between the Purchasing Department and Pharmacy.

Precisely at 8:00 A.M. Eddie begins his work; precisely at 11:30 A.M. he goes to lunch; and precisely at 12:00 Noon he returns, to remain at his job until 4:30 P.M. His precision in his habits is reflected in his work, as those who use stencils know. Whether the job is the mimeographing of a postcard or the duplicating of a voluminous precedent book, Eddie turns out a perfect job. What appears to be a language handicap in no way deters him from following instructions and meeting deadlines. As one quickly learns, he has a quick perception and a keen mind.

Born in Poland, Eddie was a high school teacher before the war, and authored a book on psychology. In 1939 he joined the Polish army and served until 1944, when he was taken prisoner by the Germans. Although he remained in prison until 1952, six years after the end of World War II, Eddie managed to write a 500-page novel during that period, "The Lost Way," which was published in Poland, Germany, and the United States in the Polish language.

Eddie and his wife were brought to this country in 1952 by the International Institute. His first job was in the Housekeeping Department of Beth Israel where he remained for a year before his promotion to printer in 1953.

Eddie is a talented musician, playing all of the stringed instruments—violin, cello, and viola. In addition, he has a "semi-profession", movie photography, which he did for a geographic association in Poland before the war.

Operating the printing equipment at the Hospital means eight hours of exacting and exhausting work, but Eddie's active day is only half over when he leaves at 4:30. As a representative of the Polish Cultural Club of Boston, he has traveled throughout the country attending meetings and conferences, and last year was their delegate at an international meeting in London. Moreover, Eddie is a Polish news commentator on radio station WHIL in Malden.

When does he sleep? Not often—about five or six hours a night. That's all he needs, he says. And we must agree, for Eddie is indeed wide awake on printing, music, photography, literature, and world events.

We're proud to belong to the same family with Waclaw Dudzinski.

A Look At The Laundry

Have you ever looked beyond the window in the Laundry where you cash your check on Thursday afternoon? Have you ever wondered how this seemingly routine job of supplying our patients with clean bedding, linens, and blankets, and our nurses, doctors, and technicians with clean uniforms and lab coats is carried on day after day, without interruption, blizzards and floods notwithstanding?

Let's look behind that window and see what goes on. The large machines, some of which are pictured on this page, consist of washers, dryers, and ironers, not unlike those used for home laundry but adapted for mass production. Over 20 tons or 40,000 pounds of laundry are done each week. This includes washing, sorting, ironing, folding, and distributing. For this, the laundry uses approximately 275 pounds of soap each week! In the average family of four or five persons, about 40 pounds of laundry are done each week.



TEAM WORK IN FOLDING AND SORTING

Soiled linens reach the Laundry from the clothes chutes on the floors and by cart from the Operating Room and other areas. Clean laundry is sorted by departments and placed in specially marked carts to be returned by the Laundry to each area.

All of this work is done by 30 people, of whom some are part-time employees. All of them, with no exceptions, show an interest and an enthusiasm in their work, due, in large measure, to their understanding of the role they play in the care of our patients.



EMPTYING THE WASH MACHINE



AUTOMATIC IRONER FOR BEDDING AND TOWELS

The work of the Laundry is directed by Miss Mary White, a tiny woman abounding in energy, who has been with the Hospital over 20 years. She is assisted by Miss Mildred Sutton, who joined her staff a year ago after spending five years in our Housekeeping Department. Although Miss White and Miss Sutton share an office located in the center of the Laundry, and although their jobs involve much paper work, their desks are seldom occupied. Both of them are very much a part of the team which they have created, working side-by-side with their employees, folding, sorting, and pressing. Their desk work is reserved for the late hours of the afternoon when the machines have been stopped and the activity of the Laundry has ceased for the day.

Miss White's 20-year service and Miss Sutton's six years have set the pace for their personnel for devotion and loyalty. Among the Laundry employees whose length of service deserves special recognition are Annie Dunn, almost 17 years; Nora Grant, eight years; Max Weiner, seven years; Mary Jakes and Esther Wing, over five years; Sidney Skelton, five years; Florence Anderson, four years; and Joe Jakes and Timothy O'Leary, three years.

Laundry work is not easy. It is physically taxing, and its deadlines are rigid. Yet the employees in this department, by all standards a middle-age group, continue to demonstrate by their devotion and their efficiency what an important part they play in the Beth Israel family.

The next time you go to the Laundry to cash your check, take a look at the Laundry—a long admiring, respectful, and grateful look!



B. I. NEWS

published bi-monthly for the employees
of the Beth Israel Hospital

Elizabeth R. Carson
Editor

Editorial Board

Priscilla Belcher	Personnel
James Feeney, M.D.	Medicine
Sally Jones	Nursing
Sam Racoff	Purchasing
Beatrice Stone	Social Service
Paul Showstark	Photographer

SAFETY COMMITTEE

In the fall of 1954 the Hospital administration recommended the organization of a Safety Committee for the following purposes:

1. Investigation of all accidents and fires
2. Prevention of all accidents and fires
3. Promotion of safety.

Accordingly, such a committee was established on December 14, 1954, with the head of the Maintenance Department as permanent chairman and the assistant to the Personnel Director as permanent secretary. Other members were chosen from various areas of the Hospital. The Safety Committee meets every Tuesday afternoon throughout the year.

The original committee included a pharmacy supervisor, student nurse, maintenance employee, clinical laboratory technician, nursing employee, nurses' aide, doctor from Surgical Research, housekeeping employee, dietitian, O.P.D. nurse, dietary employee, nursing supervisor, and an assistant director.

In order to have adequate representation from as many departments and groups as possible, the committee is set up so that every three months half of the group is replaced by other employees.

Much time was spent in the first year of operation on the revision of the accident form which was developed and which is now in use. The Safety Committee reviews each accident in detail and determines whether or not the recommendation can be made to prevent accidents in the future.

Fire Instructions

The Safety Committee works closely with the Paige Foundation which is interested in accidents and accident reports, and their recommendations are followed as closely as possible.

At present the Committee is trying to develop a program of impressing upon all Hospital personnel the problem of fire, safety, and accident prevention. Last February Fire Regulations were distributed throughout the Hospital to all categories of personnel—nursing, maintenance department, telephone operators, information desk, House officers, and Kirstein Hall—with special instructions to each group, including one for *all employees*. If you have not seen this or wish to refresh your memory, please ask your Department Head for a copy.

Do you know what 1-2-3-4-5 lit up on the Doctors' call light means, accompanied by a one-minute recurring buzz? That means a DRILL.

Do you know what 6-7-8-9-0 means on the Doctors' call board? It means ALL CLEAR.

Remember that in patient areas, the nurse in charge of the floor is in full charge in case of a drill, and in non-patient areas, your supervisor or department head is in charge.

Read the Fire Regulations NOW.

VINCENT F. GARDNER
Maintenance

"NOT VALID AFTER 30 DAYS"

Does that ring a familiar note? It's printed on your pay check, and it means that if your check is not cashed or deposited within 30 days of the date of issue, it will not be honored.

Please avoid unnecessary difficulty for yourself or for the Accounting Office by not holding your check beyond the 30-day time limit.

BETH ISRAEL ON "VOICE OF AMERICA"



ANNA THEODORE

Mrs. Anna Theodore, a Nurses' Aide in the Operating Room, came to this country from Salonika, Greece, in 1951, where she had been chief nurse and administrator of a 10-bed clinic.

In August of this year, Mrs. Theodore was contacted by the Voice of America in Washington to make a broadcast over Radio Free Europe to her people in Greece. The following is a translation of her message:

Dear Fellow People and Friends of the Apostolic Christian Association:

The radio hour of the Voice of America gave me the honor of inviting me to speak to you and tell you what life is like here. My name is Anna Theodore, formerly Miss Danielidou. I came here from Thessalonika in 1951 and found America very progressive, democratic, and the wealthiest nation of the world. I am working in one of the largest hospitals in Boston, the Beth Israel.

I am working in the operating room. This department has 10 different operating rooms in which they perform more than 6,000 operations every year. I am in charge, each morning, of the patients who are going to be operated on. These patients are wheeled into a waiting room where I check their charts and make sure that everything has been properly filled out. These people are so grateful for the chance to talk about their feelings at this time. They feel so much more comfortable and relaxed when they go into the operating room. In the afternoon I check the surgical rooms and make sure that there is a complete supply of all the equipment for surgery.

The Hospital is like a small city with its own pharmacy, gift shop, laundry, sewing room, and restaurant for the visitors and personnel. More than 1100 people receive a part of their training every year in the different fields of medicine, nursing, and other services. More than 500 doctors are affiliated with the Beth Israel—and in the maternity department there are more than 2,500 babies born every year. It offers health services to all who come, regardless of race, creed, or color. It also has a dentistry department, radiology service, and the nursing students have their own building and classrooms. A Chapel is in the main building for all who want to use it. I am very sorry that

CLARIFICATION OF TRANSFER POLICY

"It has always been the policy of the Hospital to encourage employees to take advantage of the many promotional possibilities in the Hospital by transfer either within their department or interdepartmentally."

If you are interested in exploring job opportunities in the Hospital, you should discuss it with the Personnel Office and not directly with other departments. It is always best, however, to talk to your Department Head first, even before contacting the Personnel Office. Whenever promotional possibilities occur, Hospital employees will be given preference over outside applicants of equal qualifications.

LOOKING FOR A RIDE? LOOKING FOR A RIDER?

The Personnel Office is frequently asked, "Do you know anyone who drives to work from my neighborhood?"

In order to help drivers and riders get together, sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Personnel Office, one for drivers and the other for riders. However, it is up to drivers and riders to make their own arrangements. The Personnel Office cannot guarantee either driver or rider, but is happy to provide the opportunity to help ease the commuting problem or to help share the cost of driving.

Don't forget to sign up and check the list!

WHAT IS A PATIENT?

A patient is the most important person in the hospital.

A patient is not an interruption of our work; he is the purpose for it. We are not doing him a favor by serving; he is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so.

A patient is not an outsider to our business; he is our business.

A patient is not a cold statistic — a name on an admission card or chart; he is a flesh-and-blood human being, with biases, prejudices, feelings, and emotions like our own.

A patient is not someone to argue with; nobody ever won an argument with a patient.

A patient is a person who brings us his wants. It is our job to fill them profitably — to him and to ourselves.

Newsletter, Miami Valley Hospital, August, 1953

I cannot tell you more about this Hospital now; there is much more of goodness to tell.

Goodbye, my dear fellow people, and may God send me back to see you all again in our own dear country of Greece.

My best personal regards to my Sister (I will kiss your eyes), the Doctors whom I have known, and all my dear friends. Our congratulations to Mrs. Theodore for being asked to deliver this message over the Voice of America. Her stirring words about the Beth Israel Hospital to the people of Greece give added prestige and honor to our institution!

LETTER FROM A PATIENT

Dear Dr. Sheps:

I am an ulcer patient of Dr. Jankelson; and in the early hours of Friday, October 19, I arrived, via ambulance, to your Emergency Ward where Dr. Baker took me in charge. Later that day, I was shifted to the Eighth Floor North, under the supervision of Dr. Winkler. Both men treated me with the same care and attention as if I were the Governor of the Commonwealth.

I long have followed the idea of a "pat on the back" and a "Thank you" for work well done; and firmly believe in the slogan "Flowers For the Living". I realize that your personnel do their daily work in the line of duty. For the first eight days I was not allowed off the bed, and then I returned home on October 31. I visited all my fellow patients and they too felt the same as I do, about the service at Beth Israel.

Your desk staff, your dietitians, your food division, your wonderful Supervisor of Nurses (Miss Helen Sawitsky), your pleasant Latvian woman who dusts the rooms daily, and your Mr. Murphy who makes the floors sparkle; with their cheery greetings, made us feel comfortable and cheerful.

No hospital had a better group of "Nurses Aides" than your Elsie Miller, Mattie Hankin, Freda Ridley and Ann Peters. They were so devoted to our welfare.

I am omitting names of those nurses who gave us attention once or twice, but the regulars deserve a special star for excellence. I refer to such wonderful "angels of mercy" as Miss Reynolds, Miss Hastings, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Margaret Flanders, Miss Eileen Pacheco, Miss Cathy Camp and Miss Seipa Protas. I nicknamed Miss Camp as "Betty Co-Ed", and Miss Protas as the girl with the "Million Dollar Smile". By chance, I may have omitted one or two more, but all showed themselves as dedicated, devoted, and kindly to us. When a nurse with a lovely smile enters a room, the patient feels so much improved as if he had taken bottles and bottles of medicine.

Too many folks take care and service for granted, and speak only when they have a complaint. Upon my behalf and those who were fellow-patients, will it be possible to tell these very fine members of the "Hospital Team" of the gratitude and thanks we feel for all the nice things done for us.

With best wishes for the success of the hospital, and your fine personnel, I am

Yours very truly,

PHILIP E. SAGE

A pleased and satisfied patient,
class of 1956.



"Tan I have a waise?"

© MEDICAL ECONOMICS

What's Going On?

ACCOUNTING: Sylvia Slotnick, secretary to Mr. Johns, is the talented artist responsible for the C.J.A. thank-you notes to employees and for the posters announcing the B. I. News . . . Congratulations to Brenda Fugere on her new car . . . everyone in Accounting received a souvenir of Jane Kaplan's recent European trip . . . May Vernon is anxiously awaiting the visit of her youngest daughter for the holidays . . . Ethel Berkowitz's son, Philip, has enrolled at Boston University . . . Harriet Abel tendered her parents a 25th wedding anniversary celebration.

ADMITTING: Three new admitting officers have recently been appointed—Esther Abend, Mary O'Neil and Constance Elliott . . . Tina Shepard has been appointed full-time secretary.

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY: Vergenne Fosshage, secretary to Dr. Cohen, became Mrs. Fred Glaser during the summer . . . Eunice Shaw, technician, is now Mrs. Calvin Perry . . . Arline Ekman, head bacteriologist, presided over a session of the November 2-3 seminar of the Massachusetts Association of Medical Technologists . . . Dr. Lily Livadas, pathologist from Greece who has been here since last summer for a period of observation and study, will return to her home this month . . . Elvera Johnson is still talking about her flying trip to Sweden last summer when she visited most of the Scandinavian countries. She was impressed with the cleanliness of the cities, the large number of parks, and the progressive hospitals.

DENTAL CLINIC: Rochelle Samet, secretary, is here from Texas with her husband who is spending two years at the V. A. Hospital in Jamaica Plain.

DIETARY: Sybil Kaplan, Nutritionist in the O.P.D., participated in the Home Economics Class of State Teachers College in Framingham . . . Anne Hurevitz, Director, and Carmella Clemente and Edith Jaffe, dietitians, attended the American Dietetic Association Convention in Milwaukee . . . Janet Packard and Edith Syrjala helped to prepare an exhibit for the New England Diabetes Fair where Elizabeth Farrell will give a demonstration on bread exchanges . . . Faith Larson attended a workshop on Supervision in Montreal . . . Sybil Kaplan attended the meetings of the American Public Health Association in Atlantic City last month . . . welcome to two new dietitians, Daisy Harte, assistant in the Cafeteria; and Edith Syrjala in charge of dietary units in Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Formula Room . . . congratulations to Sara Mitchell and Bella Gordon on becoming grandmothers . . . and a warm welcome to Virginia Williams, the pleasant and attractive lady in white, who is the new Coffee Shop manager.

HOSPITAL CARE STUDY: Dr. Mark Field, Director, was a member of a medical delegation headed by Dr. Paul Dudley White to visit Moscow at the invitation of the Ministry of Health during the period, August 29 to September 7. Dr. Field remained in the Soviet Union as a tourist until September 26. He plans to present a program including color slides, to all the Hospital employees about his experiences and impressions.

LAUNDRY: Mildred Krankus has recently been hospitalized and her colleagues hope she is feeling better . . . they also extend best wishes for the success of the B. I. NEWS.

MAINTENANCE: Congratulations to Barney Green, elevator operator, for becoming a Life Member of the Women's Auxiliary.

NURSING: Helen Sawitsky attended a workshop on Supervision in Montreal last month . . . girl babies to Mary Hanley and Selma Flash . . . and lots of marriages—Babanne Gravick Goldman, Lois Stutman Rosenfield, Mary La Fante Rinquist, Thelma Frisher Holman, Reena Mirman Liverman, Madeline Tudor Neal, Nance Swansi Nystrom, Lorraine Soucie Mosher and Susan Rhodes Bagawitz.

OUT-PATIENT: Glenda Bloomfield, Record Room clerk, and Bernice Marnoy, dietitian, both gave birth to baby boys in October . . . Irene Segal, Pharmacist, left to join her new husband, Calvin Howard, at his army post in Fort Sill, Oklahoma . . . welcome to Margaret McFadden, new employee in O.P.D. Record Room.

PATHOLOGY: Good luck to Marianna Sybicki who left last month after 3½ years in the Tissue Lab . . . happy to have Mary O'Leary and Eunice Wilson in the Department.

PURCHASING: Welcome to Margaret Colella, secretary to Mr. Godlesky.

RADIOLOGY: Helen Geller Kramer, former secretary, is the mother of a baby boy . . . Barbara Berman and Norma May Pontiello are two new clerks in the Department, and Dr. Hoshino recently arrived from Japan to serve as an Assistant Resident.

RECORD ROOM: Ria Koernig is celebrating the return of her son, Jon, from service at the Panama Canal . . . good luck to Phyllis Barron who retired to become a housewife after 2½ years as secretary.

SWITCHBOARD: Margaret Campbell recently celebrated her 11th year at the B. I. Congratulations! . . . Mae Quinn, former Department Head, couldn't stay away and returned to night duty.

SOCIAL SERVICE: Frances Wald and Martha Waldstein were discussion participants at the recent Massachusetts Conference of Social Work Meetings at the Hotel Somerset . . . The Department welcomes Edythe Lipman, its new Executive Secretary.